



Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Chartered by the Congress of the United States

April 13, 2018

The Honorable Steve Knight
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Knight:

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) is pleased to support H. R. 5177, Encouraging Veteran Employment Act. PVA is the nation's only Congressionally-chartered veterans' service organization solely dedicated to representing veterans with spinal cord injury and/or disease. As advocates for veterans with the most significant disabilities we are keenly interested in efforts to open up employment opportunities for such individuals.

According to the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data, the labor force participation rate of Gulf War II veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 60 percent or higher lags well behind that of all other veterans in that cohort. While H. R. 5177 aims to enhance overall veteran employment among Department of Defense (DoD) contractors, PVA believes it would also encourage companies to consider the untapped resources embodied in America's veterans with disabilities.

Thank you for undertaking this initiative. We trust your colleagues will recognize the value of this legislation and ensure its successful passage.

Sincerely,

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